

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 RIYADH 00113 221037Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 /058 W

-----221047Z 128733 /10

O 220940Z MAY 77

FM USLO RIYADH

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASH DC 44

UNCLASSIFIED USLO RIYADH 0113

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, SA

SUBJECT: KING'S SUPPORT MOTORCADE IN MAJOR ACCIDENT

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 1800 ON MAY 21, PALACE MOTORCADE ENROUTE TO DHAHRAN TO SUPPORT KING'S SCHEDULED VISIT TO EASTERN PROVINCE WAS INVOLVED IN MAJOR ACCIDENT. MOTORCADE INCLUDING CARS TO BE USED BY KING, HONOR GUARD, BAND, AND POLICE WAS TRAVELING AT HIGH SPEED OVER NOTORIOUSLY DANGEROUS RIYADH-DHAHRAN ROAD. ABOUT 80 KILOMETERS OUT OF RIYADH FIRST OF THREE MILITARY TRUCKS EACH CARRYING 80 SOLDIERS HIT STRETCH OF NEWLY ASPHALTED ROAD WHICH WAS WET FROM SHOWER. IT SKIDDED AND OVERTURNED TWICE. SECOND TRUCK SMASHED INTO FIRST AND OVERTURNED. THIRD TRUCK PLOWED THROUGH BOTH OVERTURNED VEHICLES, 14 SOLDIERS KILLED IN CRASH WITH ADDITIONAL 4 TO 6 NOT EXPECTED TO SURVIVE. 34 OTHERS ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL IN CRITICAL CONDITION. THROUGHOUT NIGHT THREE MAJOR HOSPITALS IN RIYADH HAVE BEEN RECEIVING ADDITIONAL CASUALTIES - SOLDIERS WHO WANDERED INTO THE BUSH AFTER THE ACCIDENT OR WHO FOUND PRIVATE ASSISTANCE IN GETTING BACK TO RIYADH.

2. ACCIDENT INVOLVED ONLY SUPPORT STAFF AND NOT MEMBERS OF ROYAL FAMILY AS FIRST REPORTED. PRINCE TURKI, DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENSE, AND OTHER HIGH MODA OFFICIALS SPENT  
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SEVERAL HOURS AT HOSPITAL. OFFICE OF ROYAL PROTOCOL SAYS ACCIDENT WILL NOT AFFECT KING'S PLANS TO FLY TO DHAHRAN THIS MORNING (MAY 22).  
GNEMH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION, ACCIDENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 22-May-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977RIYADH00113  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770182-0863  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** c5dd428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Date:** 03-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2418358  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** KING'S SUPPORT MOTORCADE IN MAJOR ACCIDENT  
**TAGS:** MILI, SA  
**To:** JIDDA DHAKHRAN  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/c5dd428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009